

## TAX CUTS AND JOB GROWTH

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, look at all of these new jobs: 1.4 million since August 2003. Mr. Speaker, this recovery is further proof that cutting taxes and reducing the burden of government on American citizens and businesses stimulates economic growth, as President Reagan understood so well.

In fact, there is one very telling statistic. In the last 100 days, there have been over 1 million jobs created. Let me restate that, 1 million jobs in 100 days.

This is a true sign of the times, a time of prosperity and opportunity. President Bush was correct in his policy to cut taxes to stimulate economic growth, and now we have substantial job growth.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, it is time to make these tax cuts permanent. I know of 1.4 million people and counting who most certainly would agree.

THE CONTINUED IMPROVING  
STATE OF OUR ECONOMY

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the numbers from the month of May reveal that the American people are improving their lives under the leadership of George W. Bush and the Republican Congress.

Two-hundred-and-forty-eight thousand jobs were created in May, and more than 1 million jobs have been created over the last 100 days. The unemployment rate is down to 5.6 percent. This is lower than the averages in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. Homeownership has risen to the highest level ever at 68.6 percent. Real disposable personal income is up 3.9 percent. Consumer confidence is up and business investment in equipment and software is up at an annual rate of 14 percent, and the stock market is up 18 percent.

Now, some Republicans may try to take all the credit for the economic growth we have been witnessing. However, we can only take credit for freeing up the American people from the burdens of high taxes and government intrusion. We Republicans removed those barriers, and the economy improved due to the ingenuity and the entrepreneurial spirit of the American people.

## IRAQ'S FUTURE

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, June 30 is not the beginning of the end of Iraq, as some would

want us to believe but, rather, the beginning of their future.

There is no doubt that challenges lay ahead, but I am optimistic about Iraq's future. I am optimistic because just 15 months ago, Saddam Hussein was a threat to the world and Iraqis had no voice.

Today, thanks to the brave and selfless sacrifices of American and coalition troops, Saddam is no longer in power and millions of Iraqis are shaping their own destinies by participating in Iraq's political process.

The Iraq people are showing tremendous courage as they face enemies of freedom. Neither the will of the Iraqis nor the coalition will be deterred by violence and terror.

Mr. Speaker, next week Iraq officially becomes a sovereign Nation, and I am optimistic because this is no doubt that a free Iraq will be a decisive blow to terrorism and a victory for the civilized world and the security of America.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF H.R. 4663, SPENDING CONTROL  
ACT OF 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 692 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

## H. RES. 692

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4663) to amend part C of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to extend the discretionary spending limits and pay-as-you-go through fiscal year 2009. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against the bill are waived. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived except that upon adoption of an amendment in the nature of a substitute, only the last amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules shall be in order. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted.

The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ 1030

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 692 is a structured rule providing 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget. The rule waives all points of order against the bill and its consideration and makes in order only those amendments printed in the Committee on Rules report accompanying the resolution.

The rule further provides that the amendments printed in the report shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by a proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to demand for a division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

Finally, the rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report, except that upon adoption of an amendment in the nature of a substitute, only the last amendment printed in the report shall be in order. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, as the only Member of the House serving on both the Committee on Rules and the Committee on the Budget, I have become increasingly convinced of the need for significant changes in the congressional budget process, particularly with respect to the spending side of the budget ledger. Enactment of H.R. 4663 would make major strides toward providing the House with the tools needed to enforce spending discipline in a time of unacceptable high Federal deficits.

Like many Members, I wish the bill reported went even further, but it is an important first step. For that reason, I am pleased that the Committee on Rules has made in order a long list of proposed amendments to provide the House with multiple opportunities to strengthen the base bill.

At the heart of the bill are proposals to reinstate spending caps on discretionary spending, consistent with the